



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2014

GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

IN SUPPORT OF

HOUSE BILL 5425,

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF FARM WINERY BRANDY."

Good Morning Chairman Doyle, Chairman Baram, Ranking Member Witkos, Ranking Member Carter, and the Honorable Members of the General Law Committee, I am State Representative Mike Alberts of Woodstock. I am truly appreciative that you have chosen to raise this concept for Public Hearing.

The law as currently written creates an unfortunate road block for our small farms and wineries as they seek to market their products and support their community businesses. The standing requirement that the entire product manufacturing process be done on-site is not feasible for most small size farm wineries who are unable to complete the brandy production process on site. House Bill 5425 would allow the farm wineries the flexibility to make and sell brandy from their own produce, grown and harvested on premises, but distilled off-site.

My hope is that the Committee will support this effort to remove a prohibition that unfairly punishes our local farm wineries for their small size. By allowing CT farms to sell their product, though distilled off-site, we will be supporting Connecticut-grown produce and community based businesses for the benefit of our entire state economy.

Again, I thank the Committee for the opportunity to comment on this legislation and I urge your support in moving it forward.